

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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For Immediate Release
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WSP's Undercover Sting Nets Centralia Man Soliciting Sex with a Minor

Aaron L. Schaefer, age 25, from Centralia, was arrested on May 17, 2006, for Communicating with a Minor for Immoral Purposes, Attempted Rape of a Child, and Attempted Kidnapping of a Child.

The Washington State Patrol's Missing & Exploited Children Task Force was conducting an online Internet investigation when Schaefer allegedly started a sexual conversation with its profile. Schaefer believed he was chatting with a 13 year-old girl when he was actually chatting with an undercover WSP detective. Schaefer allegedly requested to meet the juvenile at a park in Tumwater, Washington, and then take her to a local hotel to have sex with her. When Schaefer arrived at a Tumwater park to meet the young girl, he was met by detectives from the State Patrol's Missing & Exploited Children Task Force.

Schaefer was booked into the Thurston County Jail for Attempted Rape 2nd Degree, Attempted Kidnapping 2nd Degree, and Communicating with a Minor for Immoral Purposes.

The Centralia Police Department, Thurston County Sheriff's Office, and Tumwater Police Department assisted in the investigation and arrest.

Captain Mark Couey, Investigative Assistance Division, stated that it is one of the WSP's goals to protect our children from sexual predators. Captain Couey said he is proud of the Missing & Exploited Children Task Force's efforts to protect children and stated he hoped the task force's ongoing efforts will deter other would be Internet predators.

The Missing and Exploited Children Task Force is a multi-agency task force that assists law enforcement, state and federal agencies, and the proper custodial parent(s) or guardian(s) by conducting investigations on missing, abducted, and exploited children. The task force consists of detectives from the Centralia Police Department, Port of Seattle Police Department, and the Washington State Patrol. For more information about the task force, please contact Detective Sergeant Dan Sharp at (360) 704-2390 or visit www.wsp.wa.gov/missing/ourkids.htm

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